

Amendments to the Drawings:

Please replace Figure 1 with the enclosed clean replacement sheet for amended Figure 1. Also enclosed herewith is a marked-up version of amended Figure 1 that shows the changes in the amended drawing relative to current Figure 1. No new matter is added.

Remarks:

Claims 1-30 are pending in this application. By this amendment, Applicant has amended the specification to (1) fill in the now available parent patent application serial number information that was not yet available when this application was first filed and (2) correct a typographical error on page 15 wherein the mainframe server 38 was mistakenly referenced with the reference number 42. No new matter is included herein. Applicant respectfully submits that this correction would be readily apparent to a person having ordinary skill in the art upon review of the specification and figures. Figure 1 has also been amended to include the communication link 46 described on page 15 of the application. Applicant notes that Figure 1 as originally filed in incorporated parent patent application 09/641,820 included a depiction of this communication link, although the communication link was subsequently inadvertently omitted when formal drawings were submitted. Given the description of communication link 46 on page 15 of the specification in combination with its depiction in the originally filed version of Figure 1 in the incorporated parent application, Applicant respectfully submits that amended Figure 1 does not include any new matter.

The independent claims of the application are claims 1, 10, 16, 20, 23 and 30. These independent claims were rejected in the Office Action for anticipation on the basis of the Klein patent. Applicant respectfully disagrees with these rejections for the reasons expressed below.

With respect to independent claim 1, claim 1 includes the limitation "said client processors having a web browser for accessing said proprietary program and transacting said transactions on said server..." Applicant respectfully submits that Klein fails to disclose such a feature for his automatic collection/return machines Hx. Instead, Klein merely refers to his automatic collection/return machines as being capable of presenting "dialogue interfaces" through which users can communicate with the disposition center Z via a dedicated telephone line/network 2/2'. Klein fails to disclose the use of a web browser for accessing such "dialogue interfaces", nor does the Office Action identify where in the Klein patent the "web browser" limitation of claim 1 can be found. Therefore, because the Klein patent fails to disclose each and every limitation of claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that the anticipation rejection thereof lacks merit and must be withdrawn.

Applicant further notes that independent claim 10 includes the limitation of a server "configured to provide a secure web based browser interface between each of said client

processors and said server processor". As explained above in connection with claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that the Klein patent fails to disclose the use of a "web based browser interface". Accordingly, the anticipation rejection of claim 10 is improper and should be withdrawn.

Independent claim 16 includes the limitation: "said system having an internet web portal through which an authorized purchaser of rental vehicle services may access over the internet a rental vehicle software program resident on a computer system". Applicant notes that Klein fails to disclose the use of an internet connection between the automatic collection/return machines and the disposition center computer. Instead, Klein discloses that the connections between the automatic collection/return machines and the disposition center computer are dedicated telephone lines/networks 2/2' through modems 7-10. (See Klein; col. 6, lines 50-56; col. 7, lines 29-36; col. 7, lines 58-65; col. 8, lines 27-38; col. 4, lines 29-31; col. 4, lines 42-45; col. 3, lines 11-20). Therefore, because Klein fails to disclose each and every element of claim 16, Applicant respectfully submits that the anticipation rejection of claim 16 is improper and must be withdrawn.

Independent claim 20 recites a first "computer system" and "a second computer system", wherein the second computer system comprises "a main frame computer and a plurality of client computers located at specific geographically remote rental vehicle locations at which vehicles for rent are situated". Claim 20 further recites that a "rental vehicle software program" resident on the first computer system is accessed by an "authorized purchaser of rental vehicle services" through a GUI interface to thereby communicate a rental vehicle reservation to the second computer system. Claim 20 also recites that "said client computers communicate with the main frame" of the second computer system.

Klein only discloses one computer on which reservation booking and reservation fulfillment software functions are provided – the disposition center computer D:

In addition to booking and cancelling reservations, the functions of apportioning hire orders, i.e. ascertaining the time and location of the issuing and return of a vehicle as well as the identity of the vehicle by means of correspondingly supplied information from the respective automatic collection and return machine (HA)), billing, (i.e. determining the hire fee and presenting the bill), subscriber administration, occupation of collection and return points and availability testing, are also carried out in the disposition center (Z) *using the*

software of the disposition computer (D) there. (See Klein; col. 5, lines 38-48 (emphasis added)).

Klein further discloses a plurality of automated collection/return machines that access the software on the disposition center computer D to book and fulfill rental vehicle reservations.

In rejecting claim 20, the Office Action fails to identify which feature of the Klein patent corresponds to the first computer system on which the "rental vehicle software program" is resident and which feature of the Klein patent corresponds to the "main frame computer" of the "second computer system". Because the Office Action fails to identify how these limitations of claim 20 are found in the Klein reference, Applicant respectfully submits that the anticipation rejection of claim 20 is improper and must be withdrawn.

Independent claim 23 includes limitations that require a "main frame computer being configured to communicate over the internet with a GUI web based browser" and "client processors" that have a "GUI web based internet browser". As previously explained above in connection with claims 1, 10 and 16, the Klein patent fails to disclose these claim limitations. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that the anticipation rejection of claim 23 is improper and must be withdrawn.

Independent claim 30 requires that the computer of an employee of the rental vehicle service provider functionally interact with software resident on the "second computer system". Applicant notes that the Office Action fails to disclose how the limitations relating to the "employee's computer" in claim 30 are disclosed in the Klein patent. Moreover, the Klein patent discloses and teaches that the fulfillment of rental vehicle reservations should occur without any involvement of employees of the rental vehicle service provider. Instead, it is the stated purpose of the Klein system to completely automate the fulfillment end of the reservation process in that no employees of the rental vehicle service provider are involved during the fulfillment of a reservation:

The system described above offers an efficient and cost-effective way of making vehicles available individually, even for short periods. ... The collection and return points *are completely automated so that no personnel are necessary there.* (See Klein; col. 8, lines 49-60 (emphasis added); see also col. 1, lines 23-27 ("In contrast with customary car hire system in which vehicles are issued at the collection and return points by personnel employed there, such a hire vehicle transport system is completely automated on the collection and return side.")).

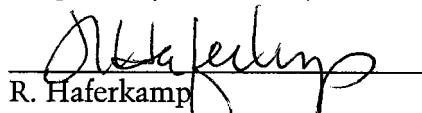
Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of claim 30 is improper and should be withdrawn.

Conclusion:

On the basis of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections based on Klein should be withdrawn and the claims should be allowed. Furthermore, Applicant notes that as per MPEP 2001.06(b), it is Applicant's understanding that the Examiner will consider the references already of record in the parent patent applications 09/641,820 and 09/694,050. For the Examiner's convenience in this regard, Applicant has previously submitted IDSs to make the references of record in this patent application co-extensive with the references previously submitted in IDSs for the parent patent applications. Toward this end, Applicant encloses an additional IDS with this response that cites a Declaration of T. Weinstock and a Declaration of W. Tingle which were submitted in the parent 09/641,820 case. Applicant notes that a predecessor system to the ARMS/Web 1.0 system referenced in the T. Weinstock Declaration is known as the ARMS/400 system, which is the one referenced in this patent application at page 4, lines 27 through page 5, line 6 and described in greater detail via references GX-GZ in the IDS received by the USPTO for this application on May 25, 2006 (see also reference AR in the IDS received on May 25, 2006 which provides details regarding the fulfillment side of the predecessor system).

Favorable action is respectfully requested. In the event that Applicant's Petition for an Extension of Time is somehow deficient, please consider this response to also include a petition for an extension of time in the amount of three months to the date of April 6, 2007. Applicant authorizes the Office to charge Deposit Account 20-0823 for the three month extension fee in such a circumstance.

Respectfully submitted,



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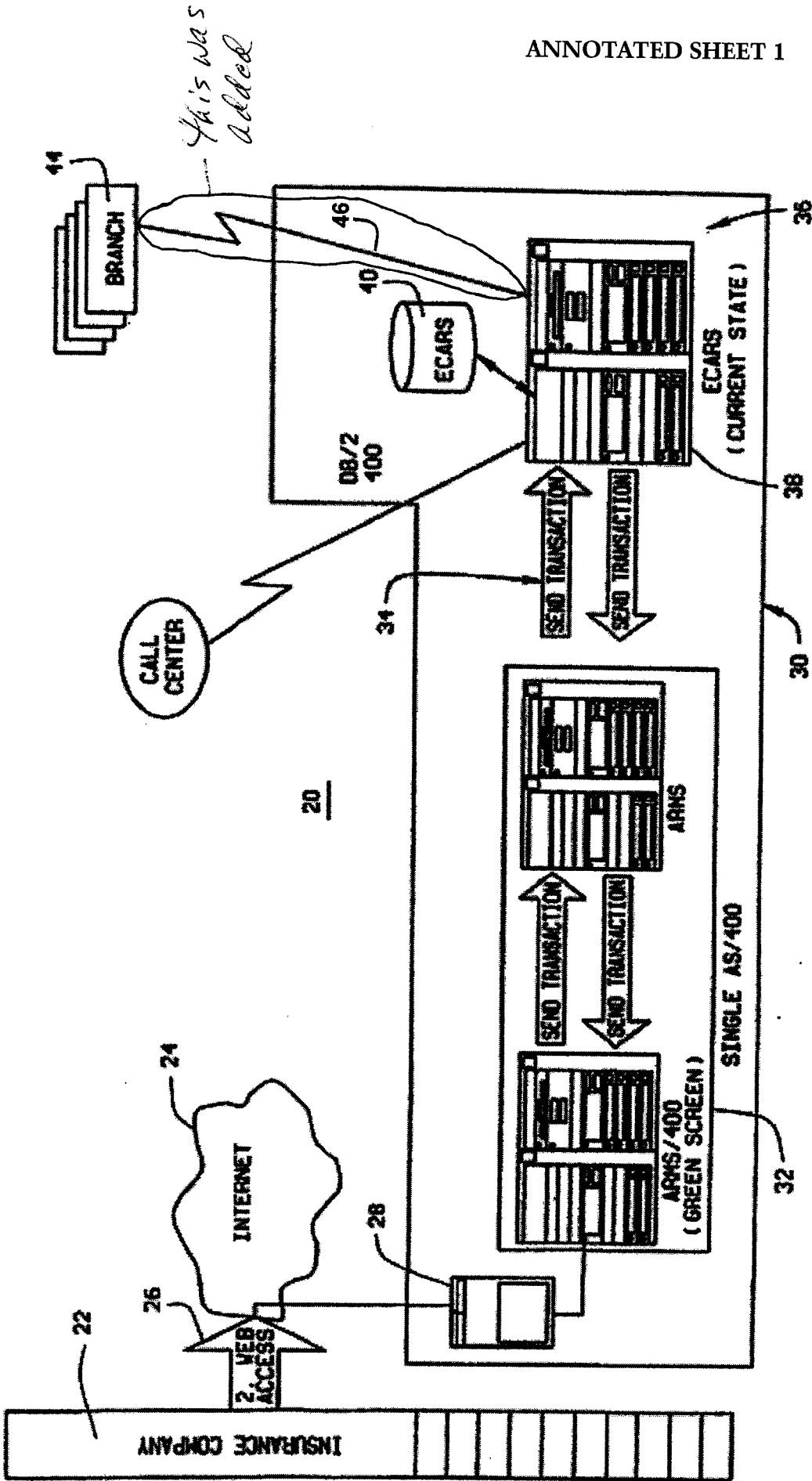


FIG. 1